

REPRESENTATIVE REFORM MOVEMENT IN ENGLAND.

FROM A LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, Oct. 9, 1849.

My dear Garrison:

While you are pursuing your protracted warfare with slavery in the United States, I am humbly laboring with others to obtain for the unfranchised masses in England the political rights and electoral power which have so long been withheld from them by the selfish aristocracy of the country, aided by the indifference and fears of the monied and middle sections of society.

My sympathy and efforts in the cause of the people here do not prevent me from taking a deep interest in the progress of the anti-slavery agitation in America—this you well know; neither, I am sure, are you an unconcerned spectator of events on this side the Atlantic. Accept my congratulations on the present position of your great question, and be encouraged in your exertions by the cheering information I am able to communicate respecting the prospects which present themselves of an essential minority in England over the monopolists of political influence, and the power of those few titled families who have hitherto divided amongst themselves all the good things in Church and State.

The general election of 1847 made little alteration in the constitution of the House of Commons; but the events which occurred during that election shed much light upon the state of feeling amongst the electors, and demonstrated the existence of a deep-rooted determination in the minds of a formidable minority in almost every borough constituency, to send, if possible, to Parliament, men of sound political principles, of independent minds, and in favor of sweeping and radical measures of Ecclesiastical, Parliamentary, and Financial Reform. In a very few instances, men of so called extreme opinions were elected. Take, for example, the case of your friend, George Thompson. He entered a borough containing 20,000 registered electors; a borough previously the property of the Whigs; a borough previously sending placemen to Parliament; a borough for six years before July, 1847, represented by the Surrogate General of the Ordnance, (commanding and viceroy General of the Tower and other Government buildings in the place), a member of the Charles James Fox family, and, moreover, the son-in-law of King William IV.—and an ex-Secretary of the Board of Control, a most steady supporter of the Whig misadministration, and most ardent advocate of the universal suffrage of the entire separation of Church and State, and of self-government in the colonies. He was elected by the East India Company's rule—the overthrow of standing armies in times of peace; and he was returned by the largest majority ever recorded in the annals of electioneering contests!

Mr. Cobden was returned for the West Riding of Yorkshire. Mr. Sturge nee von Leeds. Mr. Miall, the able editor of the Nonconformist, all but beat the Chancellor of the Exchequer at Halifax. Mr. Parnell all but beat the Marquis of Dorset (the eldest son of the Duke of Wellington) at Norwich, and the Prime Minister, though aided by his position, and by the enormous resources of the house of Rothschild, (most freely employed on the occasion), was in imminent danger of being ignominiously driven from the city of London.

These were instructive revelations, and to me, at least, indicated that the time was fully come for the agitation of a measure of thorough Parliamentary reform, based on universal suffrage. Such an agitation would probably have been begun in the early part of 1848; but advantage was taken of the French revolution of February, and of the indirect and impotent efforts of a few of the Christians about the same time. A mercenary and subservient press came to the aid of a corrupt House of Commons and a tyrannical Ministry, and the cry of "Rebellion" in England, and "Treason" in Ireland, drowned the faintly uttered demand for justice to the whole people. The first session of the new Parliament produced nothing but acts worse than any ever brought forward by Sidmouth and Castlereagh; while the struggle for freedom of doors ended in the banishment, as felons, to penal colonies, of those who had suffered themselves to be duped by the miscreant spies hired by the Government, or, with more zeal than prudence, had sought by menace and violence to achieve their patriotic designs.

The opening of the year 1849 beheld the country on both sides of the channel in a state of tranquillity, and the middle classes partially recovered from their silly apprehensions of a civil war. This state of things was taken advantage of by a few men in London, headed by Sir Joshua Walsley, the member for Bolton in Lancashire, and a society was formed for prosecuting the work of Parliamentary and Financial Reform. I attended the preliminary meeting, held at the London Tavern; and though in favor of universal suffrage, irrespective of a rate-paying qualification, felt that I ought not to hesitate to join a movement for the following objects:—

1. Such an extension of the franchise as will give to every male occupier of a tenement, or any portion of a tenement, for which he shall be rated, or shall have claimed to be rated, to the relief of the poor, the right to be registered as an elector.
2. The adoption of the system of voting by ballot.
3. The limitation of the duration of Parliament to three years.
4. Such a change in the arrangement of the electoral districts as shall produce a more equal apportionment of representatives to constituents.
5. The abolition of the property qualification for members of Parliament.

A number of district meetings were soon after held in the metropolis, all of which were characterized by the most perfect unanimity. The leaders of the Cause truly readily gave in their adhesion, and they were followed by the working classes generally. In August an aggregate meeting was held in Drury Lane Theatre, at which it was resolved to change the name of the Society from "Metropolitan" to "National," and to employ such agencies as would be calculated to unite reformers throughout the kingdom in a grand peaceful struggle for the regeneration of the representative system.

The last week has seen the first attempt made to extend the movement to the provinces. The result has been most auspicious. The ancient city of Norwich has been the scene of the first demonstration beyond the suburbs of the English capital. Nothing could have been finer. Let me inform you that all I am about to describe was a spontaneous response to a general invitation to a union with the reformers of London.

Norwich for many years sent liberal members to the House of Commons. For a long time, one of the representatives of the city was WILLIAM SMITH, the acknowledged organ of the Dissenters of England, and the friend and coadjutor of Wilberforce and Clarkson. On the death of Mr. Smith, the Tories commenced a system of wholesale corruption; and by demoralizing the electors, obtained the return of Tory members. At the last election, a gallant stand was made against bribery and intimidation by John Humphreys Parry, a young and rising barrister, whom you will recollect as one of your warmest supporters, and the friend of William Lovett and William Howitt. A coalition between the friends of the Marquis of Dorset (the Tory) and Mr. Peto (the Whig) prevented the success of Mr. Parry; but to his own astonishment, he polled 1700 votes, and lost by only 150. This showed that Norwich contained, even under the present system, a large amount of the right sort of political spirit.

The persons specially invited by the reformers of Norwich to visit their city were, Joseph Hume, the veteran economist; Sir Joshua Walsley, the President of the National Association; George Thompson, the popular member for the Tower Hamlets; and J. H. PARRY, their favorite candidate at the last election. In addition to these gentlemen, FRANK O'CONNOR volunteered to attend and address the working classes on the necessity of reconciliation and union. On the arrival of the gentlemen I have named at the Norwich railway station, they found a carriage and four horses, with postillions in gay livery, in waiting, and a large crowd of persons assembled to escort them to their hotel. Their reception was most enthusiastic. Two carriages, containing the leading radicals of the city, followed that which held the deputation, and in the midst of acclamations, the cortege proceeded to the Royal Hotel, in the Market place, where a banquet had been prepared. The following had been despatched by a special reporter to the "Daily News," before the arrival of Mr. Hume and his colleagues:—

NORWICH, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

The council of the National Parliamentary and Financial Reform Association must have been political magicians, from their selection of Norwich for the first provincial demonstration of the National Reform movement. Here all the hitherto conflicting political elements of progress seem fused into a harmonious unity, producing a sort of conservative radicalism that must afford great gratification to the men who originated the great experiment of endeavoring to bind in a common bond of union the great industrial classes of the British community. The meeting of this evening will be a great feat. No "No. 1" pronouncement, in voice not to be mistaken, that unjust oligarchical rule must cease, and the rights of industry to self-legislation be asserted. In the noble old structure of St. Andrew's, this evening, the citizens of Norwich will assemble in their thousands, as employer and employed form a new bond of brotherhood for the benefit of their common country. And a most fitting temple for such a display have they selected in their fine old hall of St. Andrew's. It is a beautiful uniform structure of pointed arches, with a long nave, with two aisles, and its roof supported by 12 slender pillars. It occupies the nave of the Conventual Church of the Benedictine Monastery of Black Friars, commenced in 1415 by Sir Thomas Erpingham, and finished by his son Sir Robert, who was a monk on the foundation. At the back of the spacious platform erected for the reception of the council and principal persons, is the celebrated picture of Nelson by Beech, believed to be the finest likeness extant of that hero, while around hang on the walls, on either side, in glorious array, portraits of the mayors of the good old city of Norwich, and other distinguished men connected with the locality; and at the end of the hall is a raised platform, for the exclusive use of the ladies, containing seats capable of accommodating about 500. And such has been the demand for tickets, that all issued, both for reserved seats and the body of the hall, have been long since gone; and any of the fortunate possessors of such admissions, "seats," may part with them if they please at a high premium.

Of what follows, I can speak as an eye witness. At 7, P. M., I entered the hall with the deputation. The scene was indescribably magnificent. I have attended, as you know, many public meetings; but I think, upon the whole, I never beheld a more grand or inspiring scene. I was greatly pleased to find that the Committee of Arrangements had not gone in search of a Duke, a Marquis, or even a Baronet, to fill the Chair; but had unanimously decided that the GARRISON of Norwich, a young solicitor by the name of Tillet, to whom belongs the honor of reviving the glorious spirit of reform in the city, should preside. The cheers which followed his nomination to the Presidency showed the high appreciation by his fellow-citizens of his character, and the value of his services.

St. Andrew's Hall, I may observe, has been the scene of similarly numerous gatherings to receive G. Thompson in times past;—in 1837, when he visited the city to advocate the abolition of the system of negro apprenticeship in the West Indies; and in 1846, when seeking, in conjunction with yourself, to expose the pro-slavery proceedings of the pseudo Evangelical Alliance. The last was a memorable occasion, and was frequently referred to during my late trip.

As I send you the Norfolk News, containing a full report of the speeches, I shall only trespass upon your space by making an extract from the address of Sir J. Walsley:—

It has been affirmed of the first minister of the Church, that he declared the Reform Bill of 1832 was framed so as to give a pre-ponderating influence to the landed interest. Whether this be so or not, if you will follow me through a brief survey of the working of the representative system as at present administered, you will have no difficulty in acknowledging the validity of the assertion. (Hear, hear.) Sixteen of our largest boroughs, including London, and the seven suburban boroughs, with Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Wolverhampton, Salford, Leeds and Sheffield, contain one-half of the borough population of the kingdom, and yet return only 31 members to the House of Commons, while the other moiety return 239 members. (Hear, hear.) There are 30 boroughs containing less than 300 electors each, several with less than 200; there are 63 with less than 400, and 81 with less than 500 electors in each; whilst large and populous districts, containing thousands of electors, of the value of £10 and upwards, are totally unrepresented, save through their county members. Eighty-six members are sent to the House of Commons by a less aggregate number of electors than are contained in the Tower Hamlets, who send only two members—one of whom, however, my hon. friend Mr. Thompson, is a host in himself. (Hear, hear.) Sixty-nine of our boroughs are virtually beyond the power of popular influence, almost as much so as were Gattin or Old Sarum. (Cries of "Shame!") The county representation, like county meetings or the show of hands on the day of nomination, is little better than a mockery, being for the most part, under the control of the Whig or Tory landowners, whose combined will, as far as the constituencies are concerned, is law. (A voice—"That's true.") When their interests cannot be made to coalesce, the tenant farmers are compelled by a voting paper, containing the name of the one or two candidates, and, accordingly, being subsequently driven to the hustings like sheep to the shambles. ("It is so.") Such is our system of representation in relation to population; if we examine it with respect to property, we shall find the same preponderating power in the hands of the governing few. One-half the annual value of property in the United Kingdom is represented by nine counties and one hundred and sixty-one members. The other half by thirty-one counties and three hundred and ten members. Again, one-half of the members of the House of Commons represent property to the annual value of six millions two hundred thousand pounds; the other half represent seventy-eight millions of yearly value. If we compare a large borough with a county, both as respects population and property, the same inequality exists. Liverpool, for instance, contains three to four hundred thousand souls, is assessed 120,000 l., and returns a half to the poor rates, and returns two members to Parliament; whilst Buckinghamshire, with one hundred and seventy thousand of population, and assessed for half the amount of Liverpool, sends eleven members to represent her interest. ("Shame, shame.") Were we to inquire into the value of the property, we should find it still more unjust than that of either England or Scotland. (Hear, hear.) Out of eight millions of population, there are less than eighty thousand electors, and the qualifications so various as to be almost incomprehensible; out of the 656 members who compose the lower house, not one-third can be truly said to be popularly elected. (Cheers.) If these things be so, and they have never been contradicted, although frequently asserted in the House of Commons, we may fairly assume that, as at present constituted, the House of Commons neither represents the population, the property, or the intelligence of the country—hear, hear—and we are therefore justified in seeking to redress the evils. (Cheers, and cries of "We will do it.") It has been well remarked, that the House of Lords represents the oligarchy, and that the House of Commons represents the House of Lords. (Hear and a laugh.) Yet we are assured by high authority, that to amend these inequalities would "change that harmony which the existence of the three estates depends on." ("O! O!")—an assertion which can only be based upon the supposition that an hereditary and hereditary legislature are not necessarily identical, and essential to the happiness of the people. (Hear.)

Here you have a bird's-eye view of the existing state of our electoral system in England, and will agree that there is ample cause for the present movement. It is quite chimerical to hope for any measure of real reform from a House of Commons elected under such a system.

G. Thompson was kept in reserve, to be the last speaker; but being called up at a late hour, said he should not, on that occasion, state his opinions at any length. You will find his observations, therefore, very brief. Though the meeting was a perfectly free one, and comprised about 6000 persons, there was not a dissentient voice nor an opposing vote. This, in Norwich, is a significant sign of the times. There were upon the platform twenty-five members of the city corporation, including seven magistrates. On the following morning, I attended a public breakfast in the Corn Exchange, given to the members of the deputation. The following are some of the inscriptions:—

- 'Reform, not Revolution.'
- 'Peace to the Nation, Plenty to the Laborer.'
- 'Moderation with Firmness.'
- 'All we seek, and all we feel, Is England's glory, Britain's weal.'
- 'Liberty and Public Order.'
- 'May every Industrious Man find well paid Employment.'
- 'Justice and Humanity.'
- 'Prosperity to Agriculture, Commerce and Manufactures.'

The best speeches, in my opinion, were made at the breakfast table, but they have only been very briefly reported. At the conclusion of the proceedings, I took a stroll over the city, and a walk through the aisles and cloisters of the Cathedral. In a few hours after, I was on my way to London, in company with Mr. Parry, comforted by the thought that the time was fast approaching when the enemies of popular rights must "set their house in order."

George Thompson has signified his intention to devote himself during the present and three following months—that is to say, until the period for the re-assembling of Parliament—to the work of active agitation in the great national cause. This week he attends two meetings in London. Next week, he proceeds to hold meetings in Wrexham and Denbigh, in Wales; at Newcastle and Sunderland, in the county of Durham; and at Aberdeen, Falkirk and other places in Scotland.

I regret to say, that neither the leaders in the late Anti-Corn Law movement, nor in the present Financial Reform movement, have rendered any assistance to the struggle for the enfranchisement of the people. Perhaps I am scarcely sincere when I say I regret this, because I have a strong conviction that we shall be able to rouse a feeling amongst the middle and operative classes sufficiently powerful to carry our point, independent of particular men and the prestige of their names; and I am always thankful when I witness any new development of moral strength in a good cause. You will not be surprised, however, if before Christmas you should see some fresh and more eminent names amongst us. Should our campaign, which we intend to prosecute most vigorously, be a successful one, and promise an eventual triumph, we shall not need patrons and coadjutors.

It is intended to hold a meeting of delegates from all parts of the kingdom about January, and at that meeting to lay down a plan for raising a fund of £50,000 to carry on the war. We do not expect contributions of £1000, and £500, from merchant princes and wealthy mill-owners, (as was the case during the Free Trade agitation); but we do expect that the disfranchised millions, and the thousands among the electors who sympathize with them, and those who look to representative reform as the means of carrying the questions in which they are peculiarly interested, will come forward with small contributions, and collectively furnish, in ample abundance, the means of this war.

It is not improbable that the Whigs will try to take the wind out of our sails, by bringing forward, during the ensuing session, some measure for the extension of the suffrage. Let them do so. The men who have joined the present movement are pledged to go at least the length of those reforms which I have specified in the former part of my letter, and I do not think they will abandon their pledges. One good effect must follow from this agitation. While it is going on, there will be a searching exposure of the manifold and rank abuses in all the departments of the State, and this exposure, if it do not lead to a very speedy change in the Constitution of the House of Commons, will necessitate a better practical administration of public affairs.

I will keep you informed respecting the progress of this movement, and leave it to your discretion entirely to put my communications into the Liberator, or throw them, after perusal, into your waste-paper basket.

I remain, yours truly,

WM. WELLS BROWN.

LETTER FROM WM. WELLS BROWN.

DEAR FRIEND GARRISON:

I have not forgotten the promise that I made you, to be leaving America, to give you a letter occasionally for the Liberator. You have doubtless learned, ere this, that the steamer in which I came over made the shortest passage ever known. This, I need not inform you, added much to the pleasure of the voyage. Among the unusually large number of passengers on board were four or five slaveholders, and among these was a Judge Chinn, a Louisiana slaveholder, who had been appointed by our democratic government as Consul to Naples, and who was on his way out to occupy his post. The steamer had scarcely left the shore, before it was rumored that an American slave was on board, and that he was going out as a delegate to the Peace Congress at Paris. The latter part of the rumor gave additional interest to it, and soon there was no little anxiety manifested on the part of the passengers to know something of the history of the fugitive. My Narrative—a few copies of which I had with me—was sought after, and extensively read, the reading of which produced considerable sensation among the passengers, especially the slaveholding and pro-slavery portion of them. This Judge Chinn had with him a free colored man as servant, and I was somewhat anxious to know what kind of protection he was to receive in travelling in this country, for you will recollect that I made application to the Hon. John M. Clayton, before leaving America, for a passport, which was refused me. So, upon inquiring of this servant, he showed me his passport, which proved to be nothing less than a regular passport from the hand of the Secretary of State. True, it was not for the hand of the Secretary of State, but it was not for the hand of either of our immediate predecessors, Mr. Buchanan. This proves conclusively, that if a colored person wishing to protect the rights of the U. S. government in going into any foreign country, he must not think of going in any other capacity than that of a boot-black. Wherever the colored man goes, he must carry with him the badge of slavery to receive the protection of the Americans. The act of the government, in denying to its colored citizens the same protection that it extends to the whites, is more cowardly and mean, if possible, than any act committed for years. But it is entirely in keeping with American republicanism. I am glad to see that the English press generally has denounced this act of high-handed injustice and oppression.

After a pleasing passage of only nine days and twenty-two hours, we arrived at Liverpool. Remained there only long enough to take a view of the place, and then proceeded to Dublin, where I met with a warm reception from the Webbs, the Haughtons, and many other friends of the cause. I have become acquainted with none, since my arrival in this country,

to whom I am more attached, than the hospitable family of Richard D. Webb. I remained in Dublin twenty days, but the friends of the slave there would not permit me to leave without adding to their many private manifestations of kindness that of a public welcome, an account of which you must gather from the newspapers.

On the 19th of August, I left Dublin, in company with R. D. Webb, for Paris, to attend the Peace Congress. So much has been said and written about the Congress, that I suppose any thing from me, at this late hour, would be considered stale, to say the least; but I will, however, venture to mention a circumstance or two, that may not have reached you through any other channel. As you are aware, the Congress met on Wednesday, the 23d, at 12 o'clock, and, strange to say, among the first that I saw on entering the hall, were three slaveholders, who came over in the same steamer with me, one of whom was Judge Chinn; but whether they were members of the Congress or not, I am unable to say. At any rate, they were supplied with the same card of admission that members were. However, they did not show any symptoms of colorphobia so natural to the American taste. A circumstance occurred at the close of the first session, which shows how easily Americans can lay aside their prejudices when they reach this country. While I was in conversation with Richard Cobden, Esq., member of the British Parliament, and Victor Hugo, the President of the Congress, I observed a man standing near us, whom I recognized as one of the passengers in the same steamer with me from America, and who during the voyage was not at all backward in expressing his belief in the inferiority of the "niggers," and who would not deign to speak to me during the whole passage. At the close of the conversation, and as I was leaving the parties with whom I had been talking, this man advanced towards me with his hat in one hand and the other extended out, and addressed me with, "How do you do, Mr. Brown? I hope I find you well, Sir." "Why, Sir, you have the advantage of me—I do not know you." "Why, Sir," said he, "don't you know me?" I was a fellow-passenger with you from America. I wish you would introduce me to Mr. Cobden." I felt so indignant at the downright impudence of the fellow, that I left him without making any reply. The change from an American to an European atmosphere makes a wonderful change in the minds of Americans. The man who would not have shaken hands with me in the city of New York or Boston, with a pair of tongs ten feet long, comes to me in the metropolis of France, and claims that we were "fellow-passengers from America." M. de Tocqueville, Minister of Foreign Affairs, gave a splendid Soiree to the members of the Congress. I perceived no difference what ever in the attention paid to those of a fair complexion than that paid to me. I could but contrast the feeling that pervaded that assembly of men and women from all parts of the globe, to the low, mean and content, tiple prejudice so common in the U. S. Here were representatives, including the United States. Messrs. Walsh and Rush were there, and you know that they are proverbial for their pro-slavery feeling. The whites and blacks were all together, and I did not hear the word "nigger" once. If there was any difference paid to one more than to another, that difference was certainly paid to myself, not on account of my complexion, but on account of my identity with the oppressed millions in America. On being presented to Madame de Tocqueville, I was received with the same courtesy that characterized the reception of others; but as soon as it was mentioned to the distinguished lady that I was an American slave, all conventionalities were laid aside by a cordial shake of the hand, that gave me double assurance that I was not only safe from the slave-hunter in Paris, but that I was a welcome guest in the saloon of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs. While there, I could but think of the bitter cold night in the winter of 1846, when I was compelled to walk the deck of the steamer Scallow on the Hudson river, on account of my complexion. I could but think of my being excluded from the saloon of the steamer Hautesse, on the passage from Portland to Bath, in the State of Maine, but a few days before I left America, by which exclusion I was compelled to wait twelve hours.

The Peace Congress, though entirely different from our New England Conventions, was nevertheless a pleasant meeting, and was made doubly so to me by the appearance, at every session, of that noble band of abolitionists, the Chalmers and Westons. It was really pleasant to see six of them in the Congress at once. I felt myself fortunate in being known as an abolitionist in America, if for no other purpose than that of sharing their society in France. At the close of the Congress, I paid them a visit at their summer residence at Versailles, and often while there, fancied myself in Boston. But a walk to the window, or the appearance of a French visitor, reminded me that I was in Versailles, and not Boston—in France, and not America. After remaining in France ten days, the most of which time I spent in visiting the monuments and public buildings for which Paris is so noted, I returned to London; where, for the first time, I had the pleasure of seeing that world-renowned philanthropist, George Thompson, Esq. I did not have to wait till he had read the letter of introduction that you were kind enough to furnish me with, before he knew who I was. He had read of the farwell meeting given to me by my colored friends in Boston, together with the announcement in the Liberator that I had left for England, and colored men are so scarce here, that as soon as I entered his room, he arose, and a smilingly approaching me said—"I presume this is William W. Brown; and answering him affirmatively, he gave me a hearty shake of the hand, and bade me welcome to the soil of old England. His first inquiry was about yourself and family, and then about the progress of the anti-slavery cause in America. Mr. Thompson has rendered me signal service since my arrival in this country. You will see by the papers that I am overwhelmed with welcome meetings. I have just attended a very large meeting in the London Tavern, to consider the proposition of the government of Austria for a loan to enable her to pay off the vast debt caused by the late war with the Hungarians. I had been furnished with a ticket for the "reserved seats" before I went to the meeting; but on entering the hall, instead of being shown to the reserved seats, I was conducted to the platform, and soon found myself surrounded by such men as Lord Dudley Coutts Stewart, M. P., Richard Cobden, Esq., M. P., J. Williams, Esq., M. P., &c. &c. If such a meeting had been held in New York or Philadelphia, I could only have gained access to it by appearing there with a pitcher of water or some stationary in my hands for the use of the meeting, and as soon as I had been deposited on the platform, I would have been saluted with the familiar American phrase, "I say, nigger, it's time for you to be off." Here the man is measured by his moral worth, and not by the color of the skin or the curl of the hair. I forgot to mention to you, that the Rev. Wm. Allen, D. D., of Northampton, made a speech at the breakfast given to the American delegates at Versailles, and in his speech he apologized for our slaveholding government, declaring that it had nothing to do with slavery. His speech, instead of gaining applause for him, brought down the condemnation of nearly the whole audience upon his own head. It is too late in the nineteenth century for men coming from America to attempt to whitewash her slaveholding institution. I am more than ever convinced, that some sterling abolitionist should be in this country at all times, if for no other purpose, to watch American Doctors of Divinity, who may happen to be here.

Yours, for the slave,

WM. WELLS BROWN.

LONDON, October 12, 1849.

WEYMOUTH AND BRAINTREE ANTI-SLAVERY FAIR.

We always feel it due to the friends taking a kindly interest in this annual effort for the slave, to give its result; and we do this with peculiar pleasure on the present occasion—first, because our pecuniary success has never before been so great; and secondly, because we can trace a portion of this increased success to a more liberal and friendly state of feeling toward the principles of which the conductors of the Fair appear as the representatives. Our receipts were \$189 74; our expenses \$50. Our Fair was held in the neat and convenient hall recently erected for the use of the Engine Company, and which was by them placed at our disposal. It was well attended by day, and thronged every evening, and though open nearly a week, the interest continued unabated to the last. People came to show their good will after they had ceased to buy. It was thought best to dispense with the tea party, and to substitute in its stead an address in the Universalist meeting-house. This was given by Mr. Wendell Phillips, with more than his usual eloquence, and will, we hope, stir up the hearts of all to more devoted and intense labors.

Several of our musical friends, by their kind assistance, contributed very largely to the festivity of the occasion, and other friends assisted in the arrangements and fitting up of the hall. To all these we would return our grateful acknowledgments, and we would particularly express our sense of the kindness of the Engine Company in granting us the use of their hall for so long a period. The donations of oil, coal, etc., were a material assistance, diminishing very much the necessary expenses. We would likewise express our thanks to the Committee who granted us the use of the hall. In fine, for every token of assistance or sympathy, the members of our Society would express their gratitude, as though for a favor done to themselves individually. True, in strict justice, the burden of the slaves' wrongs lies on the conscience, and should lie on the heart of every man and woman in the community. Though at present pressing upon, almost weighing down a few, it is the cause of our common humanity, our common Christianity, claiming as imperatively the devotion of one as of another. To those who have stood aloof, or who have regarded this effort with opposition and hostility, we would in a spirit of perfect kindness offer a few words. To every man laudably laboring for the maintenance of his family, or in the pursuit of wealth, we would say, do you, a professed believer in Christianity and republicanism, dare to deny that every slave in the South has the same right to the proceeds of his toil as yourself? To every woman rocking her cradle, is your child better or dearer than every slave child in the United States? To every young girl anxious for her own moral improvement, is your nappies and purity more sacred before God than that of the thousands of young women sold at the public auctions of the Southern cities? If you all answer these questions as conscience must dictate, why are you not aiding our sacrifices and labors? Do not shift the question at issue by imputing ulterior objects and wrong motives to us. It may be a question with you if we are doing right, but you must concede that you are doing nothing, absolutely not lifting a finger. If this is the result of all your political and religious professions, is it any wonder that the world begin to doubt of their sincerity? This statement is not indelity, but plain truth, and worthy of the thoughtful attention of every opponent of the anti-slavery cause.

A. W. W.

We are greatly obliged to our able London correspondent—WE KNOW WHO—for his interesting Letter in relation to the new Representative Reform Movement in England. It will deeply interest all our American readers. This great movement appears to have been launched under the most encouraging auspices; and the numerous friends and admirers of GEORGE THOMPSON, in this country, will be gratified to learn that he has embarked in it with his accustomed earnestness and eloquence. We beg for other favors from our London correspondent.

For an interesting Letter from "Edward Search," see our last page.

THE NATIONAL COMMON SCHOOL CONVENTION assembled in Philadelphia on the 18th of October. One hundred and seventy delegates, representing fourteen States of the Union, and one British Province, were present. The following officers were chosen:— President—HORACE MANN, Mass. Vice Presidents—JOSEPH HENRY, Washington City; JOHN GRIFFIN, N. J.; SAMUEL LEWIS, Ohio; ALONZO POTTER, Pennsylvania; G. R. DUNCAN, Louisiana. Secretaries—CHARLES NORTON, Mass.; ALFRED E. WRIGHT, Philad.; P. PEMBERTON, Penn.; S. D. HASTINGS, Wisconsin; SOLOMON JENNER, N. J. The Convention took up the following topics for discussion during their several sittings, namely:— 1. The territorial or civil subdivision of States for school purposes. 2. School architecture, including location, size, warming, ventilation, arrangement, &c. 3. The ages of children attending the public schools. 4. Inducements to ensure the attendance at the public schools. 5. The divisions of schools into high, grammar, primary and other schools. 6. The course of instruction, books, and apparatus. 7. Teachers, their qualification, training, &c. 8. Supervision of the system. 9. The support of schools. 10. Methods of awakening the interest of parents in public schools.

Strauss, the brilliant writer of quadrilles and waltzes, has died at Vienna.

Culvin's Writings. A mass of the private papers and letters of Calvin, which is said to be of high historical value, has been discovered by a gentleman connected with one of the colleges in France, and is shortly to be given to the world.

New York and New Haven Railroad.—The success of this road, so far, is probably without a parallel in the history of industry, at South Boston, were killed recently by the caving in of an embankment beneath which they were digging.

A letter from an officer on board the U. S. sloop of war Hubble, dated Aug. 9, says:—We have lost fourteen men by dysentery. Out of 124 men and officers in the ship, 108 have been under the doctor's care, with dysentery.

Railroad Conductor Killed.—E. C. Carpenter, conductor on the Washington and Annapolis Railroad, on the night of the 20th ult. fell from the cars while passing from one to another, and was crushed to death by his own train and one that was following it. He was not found until the following day.

Miss Sarah Margaret Fuller, who for some years past has been starring it in the Tribune, has been the wife of an Italian Count, and the mother of a little star. So we are informed by one well posted in the movements and doings of the "blue stockings."—N. Y. Mirror.

Mrs. Agnes S., formerly of Boston, wife of Edward Coleman, Esq., of Harrison county, Ky., and remarkable for her talents and learning, died at Lexington, Ky., on the 27th of September last, from fright at the wheel of a cart striking the carriage in which she was sitting.

The State of Desert and Slavery.—A letter of Sept. 22 from the Salt Lake, speaking of slavery, says:—"In regard to the Wilmot Proviso, slavery, &c., we wish you to distinctly understand, that our desire is to leave that subject to the operation of time, circumstance, and common law."

Elihu Burritt, the indefatigable friend of Peace, arrived at New York a few days since, in the steamer Niagara, from Liverpool. He has labored most assiduously abroad, and will be warmly welcomed by his friends on his return home.

NATIONAL ANTI-SLAVERY BAZAAR.

As we are approaching the period set apart to the labors and responsibilities of another Faneuil Hall Bazaar, it becomes incumbent on us to communicate with those friends to whom so much of our previous success has been owing, and on whom we have hitherto relied with a confidence that has never been misplaced.

We do not dwell on the claims of the cause, or on the importance of the Bazaar as an instrumental in carrying it forward, knowing that the convictions of those whom we address are identical with our own.

Relying on this knowledge, we ask, at the most efficient help that can be rendered us, that the same friends who took charge last year of the decorations of Faneuil Hall, would allow us to depend on their services for the coming occasion; and that the same friends who provided so liberally the materials for decoration, would allow us once again to trust to their kindness for the necessary supply. They best know the kind and quantity of evergreen that is requisite, and will, by complying with this request of the Committee, save them much care and perplexity.

The same arrangements as heretofore respecting the Refreshment Table and Refreshment Room will demand the help which has always been so liberally rendered by our country friends. Let each of them make at least an exertion equal to those of last year, and as much greater as circumstances may permit.

We would suggest to Female Anti-Slavery Societies, Sewing Circles, and the friends generally, that our supply of useful articles for the Bazaar, in general, hardly equals the demand. Articles of taste and ornament are profusely furnished by our foreign friends, but in regard to various useful articles which could very easily be furnished, we have found a deficiency. The following are among the desirable—Gentlemen's and Children's Knit Stockings, Mittens and Woolen Gloves, Gentlemen's Collars, Infant Clothing carefully made. And every contribution will be thankfully received, but we have thought it best to make the above suggestion for the benefit of our cause, as, desiring to aid us, are yet hardly aware of the best way.

Several of our Committee are now resident in Paris, and will be most happy to execute any commission in aid of the Bazaar. Money contributed for this purpose may be forwarded to A. W. WELLS, Weymouth, and should be sent immediately, that the articles may be in season for the Paris box.

In behalf of the Committee,

A. W. WESTON.

NON-RESISTANCE MEETING.

The annual meeting of the New England Non-Resistance Society will be held in Boston, on SATURDAY, Nov. 17th, commencing at 10 o'clock, A. M., and will continue through the following SUNDAY, and evening. To all are specially invited, who believe it to be the immediate duty of mankind to "beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks, and to learn war no more," and they also, who are not yet prepared to sanction the doctrines and measures of Non-Resistance, are respectfully invited to come, hear, and present such objections and difficulties as may exist in their minds, in a fraternal, candid and amply spirit.

ADIN BALLOU, President.

WM. H. FISH, Sec.

LECTURES BY THE EDITOR.

William Lloyd Garrison will deliver a lecture on Slavery in Feltoville, on Saturday (to-morrow) evening, Nov. 3d, at 7 o'clock; also two lectures at Berlin on Sunday.

LUCY STONE.

An Agent of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, will lecture at Chicopee, Friday, November 2.

PLYMOUTH.

WENDELL PHILLIPS will lecture in Plymouth, next Sunday, Nov. 4.

ANTI-SLAVERY MEETINGS.

HENRY BOWEN and CHARLES STEARNS will hold anti-slavery meetings as follows:—

Wilmington,	Friday	evening, November 2.	
Wilmington,	Saturday	" "	3.
Wilmington,	Sunday	" "	4.
Wilmington,	Monday	" "	5.
Wilmington,	Tuesday	" "	6.
Wilmington,	Wednesday	" "	7.
Wilmington,	Thursday	" "	8.
Wilmington,	Friday	" "	9.
Wilmington,	Saturday	" "	10.
Wilmington,	Sunday	" "	11.

